

ECONOMIC INDICATORS QUEENSLAND

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 28 JULY 1997

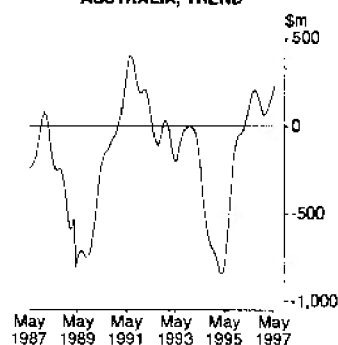
JULY KEY POINTS

AUSTRALIA

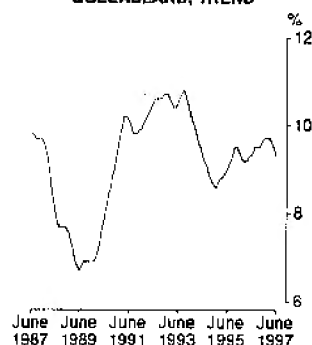
GOODS AND SERVICES

- The trend estimate of the balance on goods and services recorded a surplus of \$233m in May 1997, an increase of \$48m over the surplus recorded in April 1997. This is the fifteenth consecutive surplus on this balance.
- Exports of goods and services, in trend terms, increased \$21m from April 1997 to May 1997, continuing the upward movement since September 1996.
- Imports of goods and services, in trend terms, decreased \$27m in May 1997, after having fallen \$10m in April 1997. These decreases reversed an upward movement since August 1996.

**BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES,
AUSTRALIA, TREND**



**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, PERSONS,
QUEENSLAND, TREND**



QUEENSLAND

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- Decreased, in trend terms, from 9.5% for May 1997 to 9.3% for June 1997. For males, in trend terms, decreased 0.2 percentage points to 9.6% for June 1997. For females, in trend terms, decreased 0.1 percentage point to 9.0% for June 1997.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, BRISBANE

- The Brisbane all groups index was 121.1 for June quarter 1997, decreasing 0.3% from March quarter 1997, but increasing 0.6% between June quarter 1996 and June quarter 1997.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED

- Total dwelling units approved in Queensland, in trend terms, totalled 2,832 in May 1997, increasing 7.1% from May 1996, but decreasing 0.8% from April 1997.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the Inquiry Service on 07 3222 6351, or any ABS office.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

August 1997

27 August 1997

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

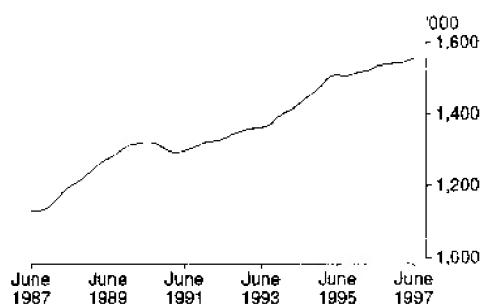
Nil.

BRIAN DOYLE

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, QUEENSLAND

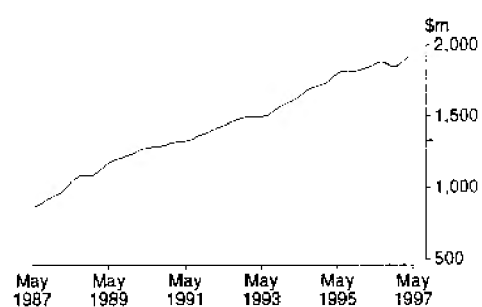
COMMENTARY

EMPLOYED PERSONS,
QUEENSLAND, TREND



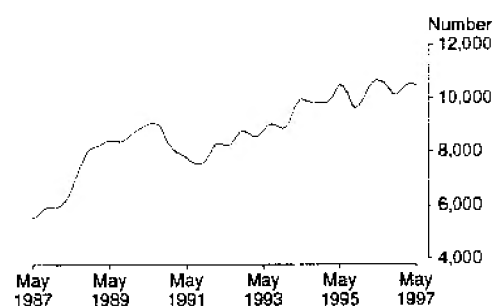
The number of employed persons in Queensland, in trend terms, was 1,554,300 in June 1997, increasing 1.5% from June 1996. Full-time employment for males decreased for the eighth consecutive month, recording a decrease of 1.9% from June 1996 to June 1997. Female full-time employment decreased 0.4% over the same period.

RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER,
QUEENSLAND, TREND



Retail trade turnover in Queensland, in trend terms, increased for the sixth consecutive month, recording \$1,939.2m in May 1997. This was an increase of 4.0% from the May 1996 figure.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATIONS,
QUEENSLAND, TREND



In trend terms, the number of new motor vehicle registrations in Queensland for May 1997 was 10,482, a decrease of 1.9% from May 1996 and 0.8% from April 1997.

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MAJOR INDICATORS—Australia

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, Summary

EXPORTS IMPORTS

| Month | Balance on goods and services | Total goods and services | Total goods | Rural goods | Non- rural goods | Total services | Total goods and services | Total goods | Con- sumption goods | Capital goods | Inter- mediate and other goods | Total services |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|
| TREND (\$ million) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| February | 111 | 8 694 | 6 620 | 1 955 | 4 665 | 2 074 | 8 583 | 6 676 | 1 771 | 1 626 | 3 279 | 1 907 |
| March | 145 | 8 743 | 6 676 | 1 986 | 4 690 | 2 067 | 8 598 | 6 679 | 1 776 | 1 648 | 3 255 | 1 919 |
| April | 185 | 8 773 | 6 714 | 2 006 | 4 708 | 2 059 | 8 588 | 6 658 | 1 776 | 1 660 | 3 222 | 1 930 |
| May | 233 | 8 794 | 6 745 | 2 016 | 4 729 | 2 049 | 8 561 | 6 619 | 1 770 | 1 658 | 3 191 | 1 942 |

% CHANGE FROM CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF PREVIOUS YEAR

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | .. | 4.9 | 5.4 | 9.6 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 6.5 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 5.3 |

BALANCE
ON
CURRENT
ACCOUNTFOREIGN INVESTMENT IN AUSTRALIA¹.....EXCHANGE RATE LEVELS².....

TREND...

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

| Quarter | \$m | Official \$m | Non-official \$m | Net foreign debt \$m | \$US/\$A | Yen/\$A | Trade-weighted index ² |
|-----------|--------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1996 | | | | | | | |
| June | -4 521 | 78 125 | 359 414 | 187 535 | 0.7918 | 85.12 | 58.1 |
| September | -4 500 | 80 348 | 365 737 | 195 833 | 0.7884 | 85.92 | 58.5 |
| December | -4 753 | 84 354 | 378 487 | 199 197 | 0.7953 | 89.72 | 59.4 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | |
| March | -4 871 | 84 356 | 382 570 | 199 902 | 0.7783 | 94.23 | 60.5 |

% CHANGE FROM CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF PREVIOUS YEAR

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | |
| March | .. | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.3 | 2.9 | 18.0 | 6.5 |

¹ At end of period.² Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.³ Base: May 1970 = 100.0

MAJOR INDICATORS—Australia *continued*AUSTRALIA—NATIONAL ACCOUNTS¹

| | Final consumption expenditure | | Gross fixed capital expenditure | | Exports of goods and services | Imports of goods and services | Gross non-farm product – income based | Gross domestic product – income based |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Quarter | Private | Government | Private | Public | | | | |
| TREND (\$ million) | | | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | | | |
| June | 65 823 | 18 095 | 19 387 | 4 578 | 25 490 | 24 556 | 106 079 | 109 885 |
| September | 66 127 | 18 035 | 19 915 | 4 595 | 25 816 | 25 039 | 106 770 | 110 668 |
| December | 66 494 | 18 119 | 20 343 | 4 753 | 26 183 | 25 503 | 107 698 | 111 720 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 66 873 | 18 278 | 20 771 | 4 990 | 26 598 | 25 987 | 108 787 | 112 956 |

TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 2.3 | 0.8 | 10.6 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 8.5 | 3.3 | 3.6 |

ORIGINAL (\$ million)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1996 | | | | | | | | |
| June | 65 178 | 18 613 | 20 241 | 5 994 | 25 064 | 24 296 | 105 242 | 107 816 |
| September | 65 875 | 17 957 | 19 919 | 3 665 | 25 601 | 25 937 | 106 291 | 108 975 |
| December | 69 742 | 18 387 | 21 419 | 4 601 | 26 804 | 26 063 | 111 633 | 119 524 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 63 956 | 17 426 | 18 924 | 4 607 | 26 701 | 24 628 | 105 083 | 107 918 |

ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 2.1 | -0.1 | 11.0 | 5.3 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |

AUSTRALIA—NATIONAL ACCOUNTS¹COMPOSITE LEADING INDICATOR²

COMPANY PROFITS

| Quarter | Gross domestic product – average | | Deviation from long-term trend | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|
| | \$m | % | \$m | % |
| TREND | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | |
| June | 108 692 | .. | 5 738 | .. |
| September | 109 277 | .. | 5 790 | .. |
| December | 109 999 | .. | 5 939 | .. |
| 1997 | | | | |
| March | 110 926 | .. | 6 141 | .. |

TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----|-----|----|
| 1997 | | | | |
| March | 2.8 | .. | 2.6 | .. |

ORIGINAL

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------|-------|----|
| 1996 | | | | |
| June | 107 112 | -0.16 | 4 794 | .. |
| September | 107 875 | 0.07 | 6 056 | .. |
| December | 117 785 | 0.28 | 7 555 | .. |
| 1997 | | | | |
| March | 105 557 | 0.39 | 4 929 | .. |

ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----|-------|----|
| 1997 | | | | |
| March | 1.7 | .. | -11.1 | .. |

¹ At average 1989-90 prices.² See explanatory note 6, page 19.



MAJOR INDICATORS—Queensland

| Quarter | FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE ¹ | | GROSS FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ¹ | | STATE FINAL DEMAND ¹ | GROSS STATE PRODUCT— INCOME BASED ¹ |
|--|---|------------|---|--------|------------------------------------|--|
| | Private | Government | Private | Public | | |
| TREND (\$ million) | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | |
| June | 11 086 | 2 884 | 3 562 | 1 029 | 18 561 | 17 911 |
| September | 11 149 | 2 857 | 3 698 | 1 006 | 18 710 | 18 100 |
| December | 11 230 | 2 846 | 3 728 | 1 048 | 18 852 | 18 237 |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 11 325 | 2 862 | 3 698 | 1 138 | 19 023 | 18 353 |
| TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 3.0 | -0.7 | 9.6 | 5.1 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| ORIGINAL (\$ million) | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | |
| June | 10 902 | 3 007 | 3 646 | 1 405 | 18 960 | 17 954 |
| September | 11 171 | 2 817 | 3 798 | 772 | 18 558 | 18 057 |
| December | 11 770 | 2 876 | 3 988 | 1 004 | 19 638 | 18 290 |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 10 825 | 2 752 | 3 257 | 1 084 | 17 918 | 18 323 |
| ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 2.2 | -1.1 | 7.9 | 12.7 | 3.2 | 3.5 |

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.....

| Quarter | Building and structures | Equipment, plant and machinery | Total |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| TREND (\$ million) | | | |
| 1996 | | | |
| June | 470 | 1 051 | 1 522 |
| September | 592 | 1 084 | 1 676 |
| December | 704 | 1 110 | 1 814 |
| 1997 | | | |
| March | 796 | 1 134 | 1 930 |
| TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | |
| 1997 | | | |
| March | 118.2 | 12.0 | 40.2 |
| ORIGINAL (\$ million) | | | |
| 1996 | | | |
| June | 590 | 1 218 | 1 808 |
| September | 592 | 1 049 | 1 640 |
| December | 694 | 1 092 | 1 786 |
| 1997 | | | |
| March | 697 | 1 009 | 1 706 |
| ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | |
| 1997 | | | |
| March | 171.7 | 9.6 | 44.9 |

¹ At average 1989-90 prices.

MAJOR INDICATORS—Queensland *continued*

| ***** | | | | |
|---|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| TOTAL BUSINESS NAMES REGISTERED ¹ | | BANKRUPTCIES ² | INTERSTATE TRADE ³ | |
| Quarter | No. | No. | Exports \$m | Imports \$m |
| ***** | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | |
| June | 176 658 | 1 051 | 1 668 | 3 395 |
| September | 176 668 | 1 225 | 1 528 | 3 372 |
| December | 178 440 | 1 156 | 1 479 | 3 478 |
| 1997 | | | | |
| March | 180 829 | 1 443 | 1 389 | 3 191 |

| ***** | | | | |
|---|-----|------|------|-----|
| % CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | |
| December | 2.3 | 29.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| 1997 | | | | |
| March | 2.8 | 37.2 | -8.4 | 2.4 |

FOREIGN TRADE.....

| ***** | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Month | Exports \$m | Imports \$m |
| 1997 | | |
| February | 1 117 | 682 |
| March | 894 | 665 |
| April | 1 178 | 706 |
| May | 1 296 | 651 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | |
|-------------|------|------|
| 1997 | | |
| April | 10.4 | 1.4 |
| May | 11.0 | -9.5 |

¹ Stock at end of period. Source: Office of Consumer Affairs.² Source: Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia.³ Source: Queensland Government Statistician.



PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

AUSTRALIA—INDEXES OF MANUFACTURING GROSS PRODUCT¹

| Quarter | Food, beverages and tobacco | Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather | Chemicals, petroleum and coal | Metal products | Machinery and equipment | All groups |
|--|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| TREND | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | |
| June | 104.4 | 81.1 | 113.7 | 98.8 | 121.6 | 104.8 |
| September | 104.2 | 83.2 | 112.6 | 98.5 | 121.7 | 104.6 |
| December | 104.1 | 86.3 | 110.6 | 96.8 | 120.7 | 103.9 |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 103.8 | 88.8 | 109.1 | 94.9 | 120.0 | 103.3 |
| TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | -1.6 | 6.9 | -3.3 | -3.6 | 1.2 | -1.0 |
| ORIGINAL | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | |
| June | 99.3 | 78.2 | 115.1 | 93.6 | 119.4 | 101.8 |
| September | 103.7 | 85.9 | 112.5 | 104.4 | 130.4 | 108.3 |
| December | 114.8 | 89.1 | 113.5 | 99.1 | 119.9 | 107.9 |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 97.5 | 84.2 | 105.7 | 88.0 | 116.4 | 98.2 |
| ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | -5.0 | 7.3 | -5.5 | -7.8 | 1.9 | -2.3 |

QUEENSLAND—SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

LICENSED HOTELS, MOTELS WITH FACILITIES

SELF CONTAINED UNITS, FLATS AND HOUSES

| Quarter | Rooms available | Room nights occupied | Room occupancy rate | Takings from accommodation | Units available | Unit nights occupied | Unit occupancy rate | Takings from accommodation |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | '000 | '000 | % | \$m | '000 | '000 | % | \$m |
| 1996 | | | | | | | | |
| June | 43.7 | 2 278 | 57.6 | 218.2 | 18.8 | 846 | 49.4 | 52.6 |
| September | 43.5 | 2 617 | 65.5 | 252.9 | 19.4 | 1 259 | 70.7 | 80.8 |
| December | 44.4 | 2 657 | 62.7 | 262.6 | 20.2 | 1 142 | 61.7 | 81.6 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 44.5 | 2 289 | 57.3 | 229.9 | 20.0 | 1 028 | 57.3 | 75.9 |
| % CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | | | |
| December | 5.2 | 4.4 | .. | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.2 | .. | 15.2 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 4.2 | 0.8 | .. | 1.3 | 6.0 | 2.8 | .. | 10.3 |

¹ At average 1989-90 prices. Base: 1989-90=100.0.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION *continued*

QUEENSLAND.....

MINERAL PRODUCTION.....

MINERAL
EXPLORATION

| | <i>Black coal (saleable)¹</i> | <i>Copper²</i> | <i>Gold²</i> | <i>Total²</i> | |
|--|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <i>Quarter</i> | <i>'000 tonnes</i> | <i>'000 tonnes</i> | <i>'000 kg</i> | <i>\$m</i> | <i>\$m</i> |
| 1996 | | | | | |
| June | 23 755.0 | 73.9 | 6.7 | 1 401.0 | 56.9 |
| September | 23 945.0 | 83.8 | 6.3 | 1 339.0 | 38.3 |
| December | 25 277.0 | 75.1 | 7.3 | 1 368.0 | 45.1 |
| 1997 | | | | | |
| March | 24 149.0 | 65.3 | 6.4 | 1 361.0 | 32.1 |
| % CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year) | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | |
| December | 15.8 | 19.5 | -13.5 | -2.7 | 14.5 |
| 1997 | | | | | |
| March | 9.4 | 0.9 | -7.6 | 0.6 | -21.5 |

QUEENSLAND.....

RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS³

| | | <i>Passenger vehicles</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Month</i> | <i>\$m</i> | <i>No.</i> | <i>No.</i> |
| TREND | | | |
| 1997 | | | |
| February | 1 884.8 | 8 340 | 10 482 |
| March | 1 903.7 | 8 408 | 10 545 |
| April | 1 921.9 | 8 441 | 10 563 |
| May | 1 939.2 | 8 391 | 10 482 |
| TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | |
| 1997 | | | |
| April | 3.8 | -0.3 | -0.7 |
| May | 4.0 | -1.7 | -1.9 |
| ORIGINAL | | | |
| 1997 | | | |
| February | 1 666.1 | 7 832 | 9 823 |
| March | 1 804.9 | 8 564 | 10 619 |
| April | 1 789.4 | 8 398 | 10 521 |
| May | 1 920.6 | 8 327 | 10 546 |
| ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year) | | | |
| 1997 | | | |
| April | 4.1 | 13.3 | 11.1 |
| May | 4.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 |

¹ Source: Queensland Coal Board² Source: Queensland Department of Mines and Energy³ Excluding motor cycles, mobile equipment and trailers.

LABOUR AND DEMOGRAPHY—Queensland

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.....

PARTICIPATION RATE.....

| | Males | Females | Persons | Persons aged 15 to 19 years | Males | Females | Persons |
|-------|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Month | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |

TREND

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | |
| March | 10.0 | 9.3 | 9.7 | n.a. | 73.9 | 55.0 | 64.4 |
| April | 9.9 | 9.2 | 9.6 | n.a. | 73.7 | 55.0 | 64.3 |
| May | 9.8 | 9.1 | 9.5 | n.a. | 73.6 | 55.1 | 64.2 |
| June | 9.6 | 9.0 | 9.3 | n.a. | 73.4 | 55.0 | 64.1 |

ORIGINAL

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | |
| March | 11.3 | 9.6 | 10.6 | 24.1 | 74.1 | 55.2 | 64.6 |
| April | 10.3 | 9.1 | 9.8 | 20.7 | 73.7 | 54.9 | 64.2 |
| May | 9.9 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 21.5 | 73.4 | 55.0 | 64.1 |
| June | 8.9 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 19.6 | 73.6 | 55.2 | 64.3 |

EMPLOYED PERSONS.....

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS...

PERSONS IN
THE LABOUR
FORCE

FULL-TIME.....

PART-TIME.....

TOTAL

| Month | Males | Females | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
|-------|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|
|-------|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|

TREND ('000)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------|------|-------|---------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 770.5 | 375.0 | 105.5 | 294.8 | 1 545.8 | 97.6 | 68.6 | 166.1 | 1 711.9 |
| April | 768.3 | 373.7 | 107.9 | 288.4 | 1 548.3 | 96.7 | 67.8 | 164.5 | 1 712.8 |
| May | 766.8 | 372.2 | 110.3 | 301.9 | 1 551.2 | 95.3 | 67.2 | 162.5 | 1 713.7 |
| June | 765.9 | 370.6 | 112.9 | 305.0 | 1 554.3 | 93.2 | 66.6 | 159.8 | 1 714.1 |

TREND (% change from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | |
| June | -1.9 | -0.4 | 12.5 | 9.5 | 1.5 | 3.0 | -1.3 | 1.2 | 1.5 |

ORIGINAL ('000)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|------|-------|---------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 756.6 | 374.4 | 109.0 | 295.6 | 1 535.6 | 110.4 | 71.3 | 181.8 | 1 717.4 |
| April | 762.4 | 369.8 | 109.0 | 301.4 | 1 542.6 | 100.6 | 67.4 | 167.9 | 1 710.5 |
| May | 767.6 | 373.2 | 107.0 | 295.9 | 1 543.7 | 95.6 | 71.3 | 166.9 | 1 710.6 |
| June | 768.4 | 368.5 | 119.6 | 312.2 | 1 568.8 | 86.3 | 63.3 | 149.5 | 1 718.3 |

ORIGINAL (% change from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | |
| June | -1.1 | -0.9 | 12.9 | 11.2 | 2.2 | -3.5 | -3.6 | -3.6 | 1.7 |

LABOUR AND DEMOGRAPHY—Queensland *continued*

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYED PERSONS.....

| | Mining | Manufacturing | Construction | Wholesale and retail trade | Accommodation, cafes and restaurants | Transport and storage | Finance and insurance | Property and business services | Government administration and defence | Education | Health and community services | Other | Total |
|-------------|--------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Quarter | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| 1996 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| August | 19.7 | 165.4 | 128.8 | 326.1 | 81.8 | 87.3 | 46.9 | 138.2 | 62.1 | 107.8 | 139.6 | 222.9 | 1 526.6 |
| November | 20.6 | 168.8 | 129.9 | 328.6 | 86.3 | 83.9 | 47.7 | 147.6 | 65.3 | 108.6 | 147.4 | 215.4 | 1 550.1 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| February | 15.3 | 171.8 | 127.1 | 334.6 | 88.6 | 90.5 | 45.7 | 140.7 | 66.2 | 106.0 | 138.2 | 216.0 | 1 540.7 |
| May | 14.8 | 180.5 | 122.6 | 325.0 | 85.2 | 83.3 | 44.9 | 139.8 | 64.9 | 116.0 | 145.1 | 221.3 | 1 543.4 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | -32.4 | 3.9 | -0.3 | 0.6 | 12.1 | -3.9 | -6.7 | 2.0 | -2.7 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 1.7 | 1.3 |

EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS.....

PRIVATE

GOVERNMENT.....

| | Total | Commonwealth | State | Local | Total |
|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Month | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| 1994 | | | | | |
| December | 719.1 | 47.5 | 193.4 | 32.7 | 273.6 |
| 1995 | | | | | |
| January | 726.6 | 45.7 | 186.1 | 32.7 | 264.6 |
| February | 740.1 | 45.4 | 191.7 | 33.4 | 270.4 |
| March | 741.6 | 45.5 | 193.1 | 33.8 | 272.4 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| 1995 | | | | | |
| March | 6.8 | 1.3 | -1.1 | 0.3 | -0.6 |

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
(full-time adult)

JOB VACANCIES

OVERTIME.....

| | Males | Females | | Average weekly hours per employee |
|-------------|--------|---------|------|-----------------------------------|
| Quarter | \$ | \$ | '000 | Hours |
| 1996 | | | | |
| May | 662.00 | 553.70 | 7.3 | 1.20 |
| August | 665.60 | 569.80 | 9.0 | 0.97 |
| November | 679.00 | 579.80 | 9.0 | 1.01 |
| 1997 | | | | |
| February | 697.20 | 581.80 | 12.2 | 0.99 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding quarter of previous year)

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|------|
| 1996 | | | | |
| November | 3.9 | 5.1 | 32.4 | -3.8 |
| 1997 | | | | |
| February | 7.2 | 5.0 | 69.4 | -6.6 |



LABOUR AND DEMOGRAPHY—Queensland *continued*

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

POPULATION GROWTH DURING PERIOD.....

| | | Natural increase | Net estimated interstate migration | Net estimated overseas migration | Total |
|-----------|---------|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Quarter | '000 | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| 1996 | | | | | |
| March | 3 324.2 | 7 512 | 10 975 | 4 393 | 22 880 |
| June | 3 339.1 | 6 151 | 6 662 | 2 843 | 15 656 |
| September | 3 357.7 | 5 901 | 7 947 | 4 717 | 18 565 |
| December | 3 374.3 | 5 636 | 8 233 | 2 748 | 16 617 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------|------|--|--|-------|
| 1996 | | | | | | | |
| December | 2.2 | 0.6 | -18.3 | -3.7 | | | -10.4 |

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AT 30 JUNE.....

| Year | Brisbane ¹ | Moreton ¹ | Wide Bay-Burnett ¹ | Far North ¹ | Queensland |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| 1992-93 | 1 421.6 | 533.7 | 209.3 | 190.4 | 3 116.0 |
| 1993-94 | 1 454.4 | 558.7 | 216.1 | 195.7 | 3 196.1 |
| 1994-95 | 1 488.9 | 584.2 | 222.5 | 200.9 | 3 277.1 |
| 1995-96 | 1 525.5 | 606.0 | 227.7 | 206.0 | 3 354.7 |

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

AWARD RATES OF PAY INDEXES¹

SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS MOVEMENT

FULL-TIME ADULT EMPLOYEES

ARRIVALS

DEPARTURES

| Month | Working days lost | Males | | Females | |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | '000 | Index No. | Index No. | '000 | '000 |
| 1997 | | | | | |
| January | 1.7 | 146.6 | 150.3 | 151.4 | 144.8 |
| February | 1.3 | 146.6 | 150.3 | 143.3 | 125.8 |
| March | 22.5 | 146.7 | 150.4 | 148.4 | 140.9 |
| April | 2.3 | 146.7 | 150.4 | 131.3 | 129.7 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1997 | | | | | |
| March | .. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 9.4 | 13.4 |
| April | .. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 6.0 |

¹ Statistical Division.

² Base: June 1985 = 100.0.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION—Queensland

BUILDING APPROVALS.....

TREND.....

ORIGINAL.....

| | New houses | Total dwelling units | New houses | New other residential buildings | Total dwelling units | Value of dwelling units approved | Value of non-residential buildings approved | Total value of all building approved |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Month | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| February | 1 989 | 2 900 | 1 804 | 882 | 2 700 | 248.4 | 140.2 | 405.8 |
| March | 2 021 | 2 889 | 1 870 | 972 | 2 846 | 269.4 | 144.1 | 432.8 |
| April | 2 048 | 2 856 | 2 052 | 685 | 2 748 | 258.2 | 122.5 | 404.3 |
| May | 2 076 | 2 832 | 2 107 | 800 | 3 014 | 298.0 | 214.7 | 544.2 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|-------|------|-----|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| May | 3.3 | 7.1 | 4.4 | -22.3 | -4.6 | -15.4 | 52.0 | 5.9 |

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS.....

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION

| | New houses | New other residential buildings | Value of new residential building | Value of non-residential building | Value of work commenced | Value of work done |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Quarter | No. | No. | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| 1996 | | | | | | |
| June | 6 086 | 2 147 | 858.5 | 731.0 | 622.8 | 801.6 |
| September | 5 691 | 2 142 | 769.1 | 551.2 | 1 175.9 | 896.7 |
| December | 6 281 | 2 173 | 859.6 | 613.9 | 1 034.0 | 917.1 |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | 4 755 | 2 152 | 667.0 | 438.9 | 620.7 | 729.3 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|
| 1996 | | | | | | |
| December | 4.0 | 39.6 | 20.8 | 13.7 | 7.7 | 9.1 |
| 1997 | | | | | | |
| March | -1.6 | 5.4 | 0.1 | -25.8 | 0.8 | 8.1 |



PRICE INDEXES

AUSTRALIA.....

Articles produced by manufacturing industry¹..... Materials used in manufacturing industry² Export³ Import³

| Month | Food, beverages and tobacco | Basic metal products | Petroleum and coal products | Transport equipment | Fabricated metal products | All groups | Imported materials | Domestic materials | All materials | All groups | All groups |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 127.1 | 102.8 | 138.9 | 122.1 | 120.9 | 122.0 | 109.8 | 105.9 | 107.2 | 91.6 | 108.8 |
| February | 127.4 | 103.8 | 138.7 | 122.0 | 121.0 | 122.3 | 109.4 | 105.3 | 106.7 | 92.9 | 109.3 |
| March | 127.4 | 103.8 | 137.3 | 121.2 | 121.1 | 122.2 | 107.4 | 104.0 | 105.1 | 91.6 | 107.1 |
| April | 127.7 | 104.8 | 126.0 | 121.8 | 121.2 | 122.0 | 107.5 | 103.1 | 104.6 | 92.3 | 107.2 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 1.5 | -2.5 | -2.5 | -0.7 | 1.3 | 0.6 | -7.0 | -1.7 | -3.8 | -1.6 | -4.1 |

BRISBANE.....

QUEENSLAND⁴.....

Consumer price index²..... Established house² Prices received by farmers⁴ Prices paid by farmers⁴ Farmers' terms of trade⁴

| Quarter | Food | Housing | Transportation | All groups | | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------|----------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1996 | | | | | | | | |
| June | 117.8 | 112.5 | 122.1 | 120.4 | 137.1 | 109.4 | 127.5 | 84.3 |
| September | 117.7 | 112.4 | 122.2 | 120.6 | 137.5 | 104.5 | 129.1 | 80.5 |
| December | 118.0 | 109.6 | 123.3 | 120.8 | 136.1 | 101.8 | 127.7 | 78.3 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 119.8 | 106.4 | 124.4 | 121.5 | 136.0 | 102.0 | 126.4 | 80.7 |
| June | 119.9 | 103.0 | 123.7 | 121.1 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | n.y.a. |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|------|-----|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 2.4 | -5.1 | 3.2 | 1.6 | — | -9.0 | -1.4 | -6.5 |
| June | 1.8 | -8.4 | 1.3 | 0.6 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | n.y.a. |

BRISBANE.....

Materials used in house building²

Materials used in building other than house².....

| Month | All groups | Structural steel | Ready-mixed concrete | All groups |
|-------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1997 | | | | |
| February | 115.0 | 136.1 | 104.6 | 116.1 |
| March | 116.0 | 136.1 | 104.7 | 116.5 |
| April | 116.0 | 134.4 | 105.4 | 116.4 |
| May | 116.6 | 136.1 | 108.3 | 117.0 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1997 | | | | |
| May | 2.5 | -1.2 | 5.1 | 1.8 |

¹ Base: 1988-89=100.0.

² Base: 1989-90=100.0.

³ Source: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

⁴ Base: 1987-88=100.0.

BANKING AND FINANCE

QUEENSLAND—ALL BANKS¹.....

QUEENSLAND—BUILDING SOCIETIES.....

DEPOSITS.....

LOANS.....

LENDING OPERATIONS.....

| | <i>Term</i> | <i>Other²</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Other lending³</i> | <i>Loans advanced</i> | <i>Lending commit- ments unused</i> | <i>Receipts</i> | <i>Withdrawals</i> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Month</i> | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| January | 23 562 | 20 650 | 44 212 | 57 163 | 61.0 | 93.2 | 901.5 | 914.1 |
| February | 23 420 | 20 873 | 44 293 | 57 485 | 58.0 | 108.5 | 971.5 | 950.7 |
| March | 23 347 | 20 927 | 44 274 | 57 738 | 63.7 | 104.9 | 904.7 | 859.0 |
| April | 23 377 | 21 139 | 44 516 | 58 349 | 73.1 | 97.1 | 974.8 | 988.0 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
| April | 14.3 | 22.6 | 18.1 | 14.8 | -51.7 | -47.6 | -50.9 | -50.1 |

QUEENSLAND—FINANCE COMMITMENTS.....

PERSONAL.....

COMMERCIAL.....

LEASE

| | <i>All banks</i> | <i>Credit cooperatives</i> | <i>Finance companies</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>All banks</i> | <i>Finance companies</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Month</i> | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 384.0 | 37.0 | 86.0 | 12.3 | 519.3 | 1 363.0 | 140.9 | 50.8 | 1 554.7 | 110.4 |
| February | 398.6 | 40.1 | 78.8 | 14.2 | 531.8 | 1 060.3 | 141.1 | 80.8 | 1 282.2 | 122.0 |
| March | 438.6 | 36.3 | 78.9 | 13.7 | 567.6 | 1 457.0 | 155.1 | 80.8 | 1 728.2 | 137.7 |
| April | 464.7 | 36.9 | 85.2 | 14.6 | 601.4 | 1 273.9 | 161.7 | 87.1 | 1 567.6 | 152.7 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 40.9 | 11.5 | -4.1 | -55.0 | 24.2 | 24.5 | 32.4 | -0.9 | 27.1 | 11.5 |

QUEENSLAND—HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION

AUSTRALIA—INTEREST RATES

| | <i>All banks</i> | <i>Permanent building societies</i> | <i>Other lenders</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Housing loans for owner occupation</i> |
|--------------|------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|---|
| <i>Month</i> | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | % |
| 1997 | | | | | |
| January | 563.8 | 42.3 | 57.5 | 663.6 | 8.3 |
| February | 636.1 | 52.9 | 71.0 | 760.0 | 7.6 |
| March | 657.4 | 42.8 | 60.6 | 760.8 | 7.6 |
| April | 651.3 | 44.5 | 62.6 | 758.4 | 7.6 |

% CHANGE (from corresponding period of previous year)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-------|------|------|----|
| 1997 | | | | | |
| April | 40.2 | -52.3 | 22.6 | 24.6 | .. |

¹ Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. ² Including certificates of deposit. ³ Excluding non-resident lending.



BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS

AUSTRALIA..... QUEENSLAND

TRADING PERFORMANCE..... INVESTMENT... EMPLOY- MENT OPERATING EXPENSES INTERNATIONAL TRADE SALES

| Quarter | Sales | Selling prices | Profit | Capital | Stocks | | | Imports | Exports | |
|---|-------|----------------|--------|---------|--------|------|-----|---------|---------|------|
| SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK—Expected aggregate change from the previous quarter (%) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996 | | | | | | | | | | |
| December | 1.6 | 0.2 | 3.7 | 2.6 | -0.6 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 1.2 |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 0.4 | 0.1 | -2.9 | 5.8 | 0.1 | -0.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 | -0.4 |
| June | 1.6 | 0.3 | 7.8 | 3.4 | -0.3 | — | 1.0 | 5.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| September | 0.7 | 0.1 | -1.4 | 3.2 | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 0.9 |
| MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK—Expected aggregate change from the corresponding quarter of the previous year (%) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | |
| September | 3.1 | 1.2 | 10.1 | 6.6 | — | 0.6 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 2.5 |
| December | 3.1 | 0.9 | 9.6 | 1.2 | — | 0.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| 1998 | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 2.9 | 0.9 | 12.2 | 3.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 3.8 | 2.8 |
| June | 2.4 | 0.7 | 12.3 | 3.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 4.5 | 1.8 |

AUSTRALIA.....

ACTUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.....

| | New buildings and structures | Equipment, plant and machinery | Total |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Period | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| 1994-95 | 8 630 | 25 692 | 34 321 |
| 1995-96 | 11 875 | 26 727 | 38 601 |

AUSTRALIA.....

EXPECTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE¹.....

| | New buildings and structures | Equipment, plant and machinery | Total |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Period | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| 1996-97 | 14 986 | 28 821 | 43 806 |
| 1997-98 | 13 699 | 22 874 | 36 573 |

¹ Not directly comparable with estimates of actual capital expenditure due to likely over/under realisation.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains latest estimates for a comprehensive range of economic indicators. Statistics shown in this publication are the latest available at the date of preparation. In a number of cases figures appearing in this publication are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues. Reference should therefore always be made to the latest issue or to the statistical publication on the specific subject.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATION

2 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. This means that month-to-month movements of the seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

3 The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series reduces the impact of the irregular components of the seasonally adjusted series and creates trend estimates. These trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months except the last six. The last six monthly trend estimates are obtained by applying surrogates of the Henderson average to the seasonally adjusted series. Trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time.

4 While this smoothing technique enables estimates to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the most recent months as additional observations become available. Generally, subsequent revisions become smaller and after 3 months have a negligible impact on the series. Revisions also occur as a result of the annual review of seasonal factors.

5 Users may wish to refer to the ABS Publication: *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring 'Trends', An Overview* (1348.0) for more detailed information on smoothing seasonally adjusted time series data.

COMPOSITE LEADING INDICATOR

6 The ABS has developed an experimental Composite Leading Indicator (CLI) which summarises the early signals contained in a selection of economic indicators. The CLI is calculated as a simple average of the short-medium term movements in eight indicators. On average during the 1970s and 1980s, the CLI led turning points in the GDP(A) growth cycle by around two quarters, but the lead time for individual peaks and troughs varied considerably.

7 Expansions and slow downs in activity are measured relative to the historical long-term trend; thus *peaks and troughs in the CLI provide early signals of turning points in the growth cycle*, not signals of recessions and recoveries.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

8 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, the *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and *Release Advice* are available from any ABS office.

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

9 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Information Inquiries on (07) 3222 6351 or to any ABS office.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

10 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and sums of the component items.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a. not available
n.y.a. not yet available
.. not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero

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